

FBI Agent Robert P. Hanssen *Most Damaging Spy Since Ames*



Aka "B"
aka "Ramon Garcia"
aka "Jim Baker"
aka "G. Robertson"
Aka "Alleged Traitor"

Hanssen's Background

- **Son of a respected Chicago police officer**
- **27 year veteran with FBI**
 - **Joined the bureau's famed counterintelligence unit sometime in early 80's**
 - **Supervisor of FBI in New York City**
 - **Involved in some of the most important counterintelligence cases in recent times**

Hanssen's Background

- Served as senior FBI agent in charge of monitoring foreign diplomats and spies from 1995 to 2000 at the U.S. State Department
- Decided on a course of espionage at the age of 14 he says
 - British double agent Kim Philby was his inspiration

Hanssen's Background

- Trouble is he was 28 years old when the Philby book was published
- Described as “Intelligent but aloof”
 - Colleagues described him as extremely intelligent but arrogant
- Lived simply and inconspicuously
- Drove old cars (97 Taurus, 93 VW van, 92 Isuzu Trooper)
- Lived in a \$300,000 home

Hanssen's Background

- **Scheduled to retire in Spring of this year**
- **Family went to church every Sunday**
- **Neighbors described him as quiet and unassuming**
- **Good friends with FBI Director Freeh**
 - **Kids went to same private school**

Hanssen's Motivation

- **Not overly interested in financial gain**
 - He stated to the Russians “I have little need for more than \$100,000”
 - “It merely provides a difficulty since I cannot spend it, store it or invest it easily without tripping “drug money” warning bells
 - “Diamonds as security to my children and some goodwill would be better”

Newest Spy - Robert Hanssen

- **Became an agent of the KGB in 1985**
 - **In Oct 85 a KGB agent received a letter at his home with an envelope that stated “Do not open. Take this envelope unopened to Victor I. Cherkashin**
 - **Hanssen admired Cherkashin professionally**
 - **Hanssen kept his identity a secret, even from the Russians**

Newest Spy - Robert Hanssen

- He never met his Russian handlers
- This allowed him to operate as a mole for 15 years
- **Probably betrayed by Russian Source**
 - Source gave voluminous documentation to U.S.
 - FBI affidavit quotes from dozens of alleged communications between Hanssen and KGB and its successor agency SVR

Newest Spy - Robert Hanssen

- **Reports are Russian Diplomat Sergey Tretyakov may have turned him in**
 - Tretyakov was a diplomat at the United Nations and defected around the time the FBI started investigating Hanssen
- **Hanssen would do a search on his name and the signal sites periodically to see if he was being investigated**

Newest Spy - Robert Hanssen

- FBI has now installed a software program to report any agent doing such a search
- Received over \$650,000 in cash, as well as diamonds, plus \$800,000 in overseas accounts
- FBI intercepted \$50,000 in cash intended for Hanssen



February 2001

Damage Done by Hanssen

- **Disclosed the identity of two KGB agents recruited by U.S. - they were executed**
- **Passed over 6,000 pages of classified information**
 - **MASINT Program (TS/SCI)**
 - **US Double Agent Program (Secret)**
 - **FBI Double Agent Program (TS)**

Damage Done by Hanssen

- KGB Recruitment operations against the CIA (Secret)
- Analysis of the foreign threat to a specific named highly compartmented classified US government program (TS/SCI)
- Compromised numerous FBI counterintelligence investigative techniques, sources, methods and operations

Newest Spy - Robert Hanssen

- **Disclosed to KGB FBI's secret investigation of spies**
- **Disclosed U.S. methods of conducting electronic surveillance**
- **Confirmed information given to Russians by Aldrich Ames**

Newest Spy - Robert Hanssen

- **Once openly hacked into the FBI's top Russian Counterintelligence Chief's computer**
 - **He was caught, but said it was to show the vulnerability of the computer systems**

Newest Spy - Robert Hanssen

- **Stationed at the State Department from 1995-2000**
 - **Top Secret Laptops were stolen**
 - **Bug device found in State Department Conference Room**
 - **Overall Security became very lax during his tenure at State Department**

Drop Points Around Washington



Tape on Pole was signal
to pickup or drop off



February 2001

Cash Package intercepted by FBI

Photos from FBI

Espionage not a “Victimless Crime”

- **Hanssen is facing the death penalty and \$2.8 million fine**
- **He will lose his home (\$300,000)**
- **His bank accounts will be confiscated**
- **His other assets will be confiscated**
- **He has a wife and 6 children and they will be left with nothing but his legacy as a SPY!**

Espionage not a “Victimless Crime”

- He is 56 years old and will die in prison if convicted!
- Agents who arrested Hanssen said he seemed “shocked and surprised” when he was caught because he thought he had been so careful
- Never took a Polygraph!

Moral of this Story

- **There are no Statute of Limitations concerning Espionage**
- **Espionage is not a “Victimless” crime**
- **Friends and relatives will turn you in**
- **Traitors have no friends on either side**
- **No matter how good you think you are at deception, someone is waiting to turn you in at the right moment!**